

applications, one of which, JP 10-131483, was filed on May 14, 1998. The invention, as claimed, is supported by that Japanese application.

Sasaki was filed on March 29, 1999, after this earlier priority date. Accordingly, Sakai is not prior art as to the present invention. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a)(4), a sworn English translation of the priority document is submitted herewith.

Since Sasaki is not available as prior art against the claimed invention, favorable consideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the document listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant form (PTO/SB/08A).

The cited references include complete English translations of several Japanese references already of record, those references having been cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 12, 2005.¹ Also cited herewith are the following U.S. patents, which are English language counterparts to other Japanese references cited in that earlier Information Disclosure Statement:

<u>U.S. Patent No.</u>	<u>Counterpart Japanese Reference</u>
6,293,652	JP 10-119,257 and JP 10-286972
6,102,533	JP 10-119,257 and JP 10-286972
6,250,750	10-109427

¹ In reviewing the January 12 Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, it was noted that the box specifically authorizing payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) inadvertently was not checked. Nevertheless, it is believed that fee has been paid, since the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement included a blanket deposit account authorization for all fee deficiencies. Should that fee still be owed, authorization is given herein to charge the fee to deposit account 19-4709.

5,971,534
6,022,103

10-329331
8-276605

U.S. patent no. 6,250,750 has not been cited in the accompanying PTO/SB/08A form because the reference was cited in the Office Action mailed on May 14, 2002.

The Fee and Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) for that prior Information Disclosure Statement are believed to cover the submission of these papers.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to confirm that these references have been considered by returning to Applicants' undersigned attorney a copy of the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant form (PTO/SB/08A).

CONCLUSION

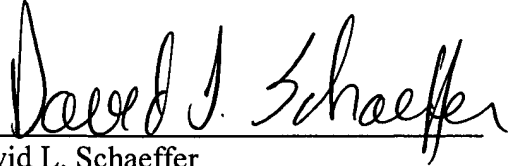
Applicants have made a diligent effort to place this application in condition for allowance and submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason, however, the Examiner should deem that this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below to resolve any outstanding issues prior to issuing a further Office Action.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection and submit that entry of this Amendment will place the present application in condition for allowance. It is further submitted that entry of this Amendment can be approved by the Examiner consistent with Patent and Trademark Office practice, since the changes it makes should not require a substantial amount of additional work by the Examiner. It is believed that the changes presented in this Amendment either address matters of form or issues that the Examiner has previously considered.

Application No. 09/312,073
Amendment After Final Rejection dated February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 20, 2004

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee now or hereafter due in connection with the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David L. Schaeffer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

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